

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: August 5, 2021

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: JOTC Circle Conference Room & Virtually

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sara Booth, Dean Boles, Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Whitney Sanger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Hoffman, Craig Reber

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kennicker motions to approve the June 23, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Boles. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Schultz shared the following public comment:

1. Suggest the city use an alternative model for sustainability - (Nested Model - environment, human and various economies). Economy is often considered equally to human, and environment and it is not the same value.
1. Action based data for decision making - Socrata data - city uses; if data is entered into system; it is helpful, but departments are not using.
2. Spoke with recycling contractor related to plastics recycling. #3-7 hold no value, and we should stop recycling. The city is charged a processing fee to "process", despite being not easy to recycle/hold little opportunity for recycling. Deserves further discussion. City does not want to drop those plastics.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Officer Re-election

The Commission discussed possibility of implementing the structure of other commissions in which the vice chair moves up when terms end. Current Vice-Chair Kennicker is open to idea but is concerned with Delta variant and her work schedule, so she does not want to take on the role. Commissioners discussed keeping positions in current status.

Commissioner Boles motions to elect Candace Eudaley-Loebach as Resiliency Commission Chair. Commissioner Sanger seconds. Motions carries 6-0-1 with Eudaley-Loebach abstaining.

Commissioner Boles motions to elect Robin Kennicker as Vice Chair of the Resiliency Commission. Commissioner Booth seconds. Motions carries 6-0-1 with Kennicker abstaining.

b) Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation

Reports by Commissioners

Buildings and Energy

1. Invite Alexis Steger, Director of Housing and Community Development to RCAC (see slide bullet point one)
2. City interpretation is conservative - improvement or conservation (city sees it as a stretch) Dean and Jake will follow up on that.
3. Tabled at Sustainability Fair - spoke with lots of folks
4. Energy Savers Program - ongoing; ask to continue to raise awareness for EE upgrades; still funding available; plans for future funding

Transportation

Group that met - Tri-State Trail Vision and Commissioners Eudaley-Loebach and Kennicker

1. Complete Streets and On Route Bike Signage
2. Using Tri-State Trail Plan from 2008
3. See slides for additional details

Discussion: This work fits with Climate Action Plan (CAP), Imagine Dubuque Comprehensive Plan, and City Council Goals and Priorities. It was noted that bike infrastructure was left out of current projects and the group identified future plans. Additionally, from a tourism side, signage replacement will be helpful. The trail plan had considerable public input at the time of its creation.

Commissioner Kennicker motions to submit to city staff (Jon Dienst) and ask for feedback and offer support. Commissioner Booth seconds. Motion carries 7-0-0.

Food

No report

Greenspace & Tree Canopy

No report

c) Implementation Plan Financial Report Status

Staff submitted Commission request to fund a staff member and set aside funding for a limited-term position to implement CAP. Staff shared the response from the City Manager was to include in Fiscal Year 2023 budget request.

Discussion: Climate Action will need support at goal setting and budget hearings. Goal Setting is mid-August and budget process is starting, voting takes place in March. Staff will send what RCAC goals and priorities are (what were submitted to consultant in June 2021). The Commission also discussed if support should come from individuals or as a group to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Legal Department Response – Protected Class Discussion

Commissioner Boles asked if there was a response to his email about the GARE video and Multnomah County Healthy Baby Initiative. Staff stated there is a lot of gray and the city is comfortable defending what is currently funded, which is explicit but not exclusive. Commissioner Boles will follow up directly with Human Rights Director to address additional concerns.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach shared her report earlier (transportation discussion)

Commissioner Sanger share about the Rooted Table, a free community dinner at Bee Branch, and the discussion topic is resiliency. If interested in facilitating, volunteering, or wanting to share discussion prompts related to resiliency, please email her.

Commissioner Boles gave the Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) update: The CDAC recommended funding the Mt. Pleasant Home to rehab their elevator. The CDAC discussed the Lead and Healthy Homes grant, which is up for renewal. Since 1997, 1300 homes have participated. The new application is an additional 42 months and \$4.2 million and will be matched with other HUD funds.

Commissioner Kennicker reported from Parks Commission: National Night Out was lots of fun (8/3/21) and well attended. Upcoming is the Hot Dog Night at Holy Trinity on 9/14/2021.

Commissioner Jayawickrama shared that he was elected to the committee for food and research for Sri Lankan Embassy.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 5 pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC), 949 Kerper Boulevard.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Minutes approved by: Candace Eudaley-Loebach
Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by: Gina Bell
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator